VIII

AT THE LYCEUM

| T 7* HEX I am asked what I remember about the first ten years at the Lyceum, I can answer in one word: *Work.* I was hardly ever out of the theatre. What with acting, rehearsing, and studying—twenty-five reference books were a " simple coming-in " for one part—I sometimes thought I should go blind and mad. It was not only for my parts at the Lyceum that I had to rehearse. From August to October I was still touring in the provinces on my own account. My brother George acted as my business manager. His enthusiasm was not greater than his loyalty and industry. When we were playing in small towns he used to rush into my dressing-room after the curtain was up and say excitedly :

" We've got twenty-five more people in our gallery than tie Blanuk Theatre opposite ! "

Although he was very delicate, he worked for me like a slave. When my tours with Mr. KeEy ended in 1880 aad I promised Henry Irving that in future I would go to the provincial towns with him, my brother was given a position at the Lyceum, where, I fear, his scrupulous and ^compromising honesty often got Mm into trouble. ** Perks/[5] as they are called in domestic service, are one of the heaviest additions to a manager's working expenses, and George tried to fight the system. He hurt no one so much as himself.